RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
DEC 30 2008

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for auto-associating a medical device with a patient, comprising:

equipping a patient with a patient transmitter/receiver chip having a patient ID number, capable of short-range airborne transmission;

supplying a medical device equipped with a device transmitter/receiver chip, capable of short-range airborne transmission;

placing the medical device and the patient in proximity;

transmitting ~~a~~an airborne request for patient ID command to the patient transmitter/receiver chip from the device transmitter/receiver chip;

transmitting the patient ID number in an airborne response directly to the device transmitter/receiver chip from the patient transmitter/receiver chip; and

sending the patient ID number to a medication management unit from the medical device.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: associating the medical device only to the patient based on the patient ID number sent to the medication management unit.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of: dissociating the medical device from the patient based on a command from a user.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: matching the patient ID number with a medication order prescribed for a patient at the medication management unit.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the medical device is a first medical device and the device transmitter/receiver chip is a first device transmitter/receiver chip, and further comprising the steps of:

placing a second medical device in proximity to the patient;

supplying the first device transmitter/receiver chip with a first device ID number, and the second device transmitter/receiver chip with a second device ID number;

transmitting ~~a~~an airborne request for device ID command to the second device transmitter/receiver chip from the first device transmitter/receiver chip;

transmitting the second device ID number in an airborne response directly to the first device transmitter/receiver chip from the second device transmitter/receiver chip; and

placing the second device ID number in a memory of the first medical device.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of: sending the patient ID number from the first medical device to the second medical device.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising locking the medical devices to a specific patient ID number and not associating the medical devices with another patient ID.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising locking the patient ID with a specific medical device and not associating the patient ID with other medical devices.

9. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of: associating the medical devices only to the patient based on the patient ID number sent to the medication management unit.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of: dissociating the medical devices from the patient based on a command from a user.

11. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of: matching the patient ID number with a medication order prescribed for a patient at the medication management unit.

12. (Currently Amended) A medication management system for auto-associating a medical device with a patient, comprising:

a patient transmitter/receiver chip having a patient ID number, capable of short-range airborne transmission and adapted to be secured to a patient;

a medical device having a device transmitter/receiver chip capable of short-range airborne transmission, a processor and a memory coupled to the processor, the memory containing programming code executed by the processor to:

transmit ~~a~~an airborne request for patient ID command to the patient transmitter/receiver chip from the device transmitter/receiver chip, and

send any patient ID number received by the medical device to a medication management unit; and

wherein the patient transmitter/receiver chip transmits the patient ID number directly to the device transmitter/receiver chip in an airborne response to the request for patient ID command when the patient transmitter/receiver chip is within proximity to the medical device sufficient to receive the request for patient ID command.